

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 646
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church on its 200th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to specially recognize, honor, and commend inspired churches that are celebrating milestones in their venerable history; and

WHEREAS, the historic Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary, is one such exemplary church; and

WHEREAS, the Beech congregation was organized as a Presbyterian Church in 1798 by the Reverend Thomas Craighead and among the charter members were Reverend Hugh Kirkpatrick and his wife Isabella, William and Jane Montgomery, and Mrs. Frances Ketring; and

WHEREAS, the first meetings of Beech Church were held in a log meeting house, called a "Union" Meeting House. The first building was a simple log structure that was built on the campground between the site of the present building and Long Hollow Pike. It was located on the same property as the present-day Church and manse.

WHEREAS, the first pastor of Beech was the Reverend William McGee. His wife was Anna King, sister of the Reverend Samuel King who, was one of the founders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In October 1810, William McGee and the congregation united with the Cumberland Presbyterians; and

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WHEREAS, on October 5, 1813, the first synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was constituted at Beech with William McGee as moderator and Finis Ewing as clerk. The name Cumberland Presbyterian as applied to a denomination appears for the first time in connection with this meeting. The minutes of the first synod are on display in the historical room of the present-day church; and

WHEREAS, thirty-five ministers have served admirably as Pastor of the Beech congregation, beginning with William McGee. The church was served by Circuit Riders, local Ministers and Evangelists until 1831, when Reverend J. L. Smith became the Pastor. Three ministers have served as Pastors on two separate occasions, Reverend D. R. Marshall, Reverend Alfred Bennett and Reverend James W. Knight. Reverend Fred Schott currently serves the church as interim pastor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we pause in our deliberations to specially honor and commend the historic Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church as it celebrates 200 years of service to God and its community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.